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“The Role of the Branch Unified Standards of Medical Technologies in Ukrainian Public Health System”

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The history of development of medical standards in Ukraine started from the late of 1980s when on the wave of economic innovations, a number of local medical facilities standards have been produced. Their practical use, however, led to obtain not only positive but also negative experience such as a lack of uniform criteria, scientific and methodological substitutions of standards creation did not allow to carry out of the comparative evaluation of medical facilities activity and to undertake analysis of medical and economic effectiveness of standards use. The technological standards had various levels to guarantee the medical care quality providing by comparable medical facilities.

The modern world practice accepts the use of institutional (medical facilities) standards under one condition: they should correspond to the state standards. Where possible the local standards may comprise extra medical services, more comfortable accommodation for patients, etc., but their level should never be lower of the state medical standards. The creation of unified standards of medical technologies relating to inpatient care is a staged process.

I stage - development of unified scientific methodological approaches to create the standards of medical technologies;

II stage - realization of formalized performance of curative-diagnostic process for treatment facilities of II, III and IV levels;

III stage – development of the draft of unified standards of medical technologies and preparation for their approval on the State level;

IV stage - submission of the project “Temporary unified branch standards of medical technologies” to the Ministry of Health (MOH).

This work was conducted by leading researchers and specialists of the Ukraine MOH and the Academy of Medical Sciences. The scientific, methodological and publishing support was provided by the Ukrainian Institute of Public Health (UIPH). The methodological base to create standards of medical technologies and treatment quality was as follows:

1. The use of modern medical technologies, methods, schemes of diagnostic and treatment, consultations to achieve the best quality and effectiveness of patient's care and treatment.
2. Unity and adequacy of diagnostic and treatment processes.
3. The use of medical technologies based on the latest scientific advances.

4. Implementation and management of diagnostic and treatment procedures as the single technological process.

5. The evaluation of medical services quality based on reliable criteria.

6. The use of medical statistics comparable with the countries – members of WHO.

7. Providing standards with uniformed structural and functional grounds.

We developed the standards of medical technologies for medical facilities providing specialized and highly specialized medical care. This work was carried out within medical services (profiles) based on the approved list of physician specialties, and stages of medical care: level two-district, level three-regional, level four-the State clinical facilities. The medical standards for 30 medical specialties of adult care and 26 – for children care have been developed. The structure of the treatment-diagnostics standards is following:

1. Notification of nosological forms and their groups accordingly to the International Classification of Diseases of the 10-th revision (ICD - 10);

2. The list and the number of diagnostic examinations according to the level of medical care proving by the particular type of medical facility;

3. The list of treatment procedures for each type of medical facility;

4. Requirements for the treatment outcome;

5 Average time of patient stay in hospital.

Various components of medical technologies have been presented in the standards: laboratory, functional, X-ray and other methods of diagnostics, medicinal and nonmedicinal treatment as well as rehabilitation methods in accordance with existing traditional medical practice and instructive materials. Medication therapy is presented in names of drugs and medicines groups and in some cases a remedy of choice has been nominated by its principal active components. Such a conceptual approach will solve the problem of interim substitution of pharmaceutical means belonging to the same group and promote to prescribing of domestic medicines.

This aspect is important in modern conditions of drugs and other medical disposable materials supply of Ukraine medical facilities because prices of domestic therapeutic means are much lower than of imported analogies. Substantiation of this approach is determined also by the regulatory functions of the standards for medical technologies.

Unified standards of hospital medical technologies are components of an integral technological process of medical care provision. As the separate technological elements of medical care are laboratory, functional, X-ray and other methods of diagnostics; some treatment and rehabilitation methods carried out in accordance with the medical traditional practice and existing departmental instructive materials for providing such kind of medical care.

Introduction of the branch medical standards is directed to providing patients with minimum granted type and quality of medical care and its supervision on internal (self-control) departmental (Ministry of health) and external (Public organizations, Insurance Companies, etc.) levels. After introduction of

mandatory health insurance system the medical standards obtain the status of legal documents for insurance Companies, serving as the financial documents. They can also be used in medical facilities accreditation procedure, which is regulated by the resolution of Ukrainian Council of Ministers and corresponding orders of Ukrainian Ministry of Health. The branch standards are intended to protect the rights of both medical workers and patients, and to serve as a guarantee for observing the principles of equality in providing of medical care.

Taking into account rapid development of the new medical technologies and methods of treatment the medical standards should be considered as the subject for annually revision. Procedure for introducing and regular reviewing of the branch standards has authorized by the special order of Ukrainian Ministry of Health.

Some unified branch standards of medical technologies are used for preparing of the *List* of domestic and foreign medicines being permitted to acquire from the budget sources. Such a list will promote more rational utilization of very limited medical resources. A number of other normative documents relating to supply of population and medical facilities with pharmaceuticals are now in the stage of development.

Thus, the whole package of newly introduced unified standards of medical technologies is seen as an instrument to control the quality of medical care. It is the legal document, defending patients' rights and regulating wide spectrum of medical activities. It promotes introduction into medical practice new, more effective technologies and therapeutic means to obtain better results of treatment and to make performance of medical facilities more efficient.

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